

**To:** CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]  
**Cc:** []  
**Bcc:** []  
**From:** CN=Palmer Hough/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Thur 11/4/2010 8:05:43 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Pebble mine - it's everywhere  
Anchorage Daily News

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**From:** Christopher Hunter/DC/USEPA/US  
**To:** Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Julia McCarthy/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 11/03/2010 12:59 PM  
**Subject:** Pebble mine - it's everywhere

Even in a small article about Alaska taking over part of the 402 permitting program. From Greenwire

17. MINING: Alaska takes control of wastewater discharge permits (11/02/2010)

Alaska took control of its wastewater discharge permits for mining operations Sunday, one of the last states to take that control over from the federal government.

The state also will take over oil and gas project permits next year. Alaska's control of permits was made possible in 2008 when U.S. EPA turned its Clean Water Act authority for wastewater permitting and enforcement over to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Since then, the state has been taking over wastewater control in stages.

The control of permits means that Alaska will now be in control of regulating discharges from a mine that may be developed at the Pebble copper and gold deposit in the southwestern part of the state. Native organizations that will be affected by the mine and some environmental groups have sued Alaska to overturn the 2008 decision allowing the state to take control. A decision is expected any day, a state attorney said yesterday.

According to Mike Bussell, who runs EPA's regional Office of Water and Watersheds in Seattle, the federal agency is pleased with Alaska's control of wastewater permits. He also said that EPA plans to be involved in mining projects and that EPA can block permits issued by Alaska if they do not meet Clean Water Act requirements (Elizabeth Bluemink, Anchorage Daily News, Nov. 1). -- AP

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